

Church News.

ROARING SPRINGS.

DEAR EDITOR: Since our last communication, Bro. E. B. Shaver of the "Old Dominion" has been with us, but, as it is sometimes said only a "pop" visit. His time being limited, could not do justice to the occasion. While with us, he practically carried out the divine injunction—"What thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Bro. Shaver is an indefatigable worker, he invariably works up stream, and the swifter the current the harder he rows. He preached a few evenings in Altoona, where his labors were rewarded by four additions to the church. Then followed a few evenings in our McKee church, which were much appreciated by all, and seed sown that will, we are confident, bring forth fruit. On Thanksgiving evening we held our communion service, which was solemn and impressive. On Friday morning Bro. Shaver left us for his Virginia home. May the Lord bless him in his future work.

On Friday evening we dropped into Martinsburg where we once lived, and where elder Holsinger—Mr. H. R.—of the German Baptist church was holding a protracted meeting. The train being late, we concluded however we would drop in, found a good congregation present, and Bro. Holsinger about midway in his discourse. His theme seemed to be the "black man and the white man," spiritually representing sin and righteousness. Bro. H. is a fluent earnest, Methodical preacher, and what we heard interested us very much. Presents the truth forcibly and in great earnestness. And if we had not remembered our surroundings, would have believed we were in the midst of a full fledged Progressive revival meeting, it was so much like unto it. Why? Well, you know Bro. Editor when we get in real downright earnestness, we step down off the pulpit and exhort the sinner to come to Christ, and so did Bro. Holsinger. How we well remember when Bro. Bashor held a meeting during which we were converted. Our good old Elder would put his foot against the table, to keep Bashor from getting out. Then too, you know we invite sinners to stand up, or come forward, so did Bro. Holsinger, and we are glad to say that six responded. Then too, you know we take up public collections, so too, the Elder arose and announced that on "to-morrow evening we will take up a general collection, all come prepared to contribute." It didn't used to be so. Then too, as you are aware, we often sing lively, inspiring songs, so did Bro. Holsinger's audience, in which we joined most heartily—such as, "Blessed be His name", "Won't you come to Jesus", etc. All sang in 6-8 time, and it sort of made us wonder where we were at, whether in a Methodist, or Progressive revival. We enjoyed the services, and we do not write this in the spirit of criticism, because we like those services. We

only refer to it to show the wonderful advancement along this line, and to hereby notify our brethren that unless we increase our speed, our German Baptist brethren will run clean over us, and we will become the slow coach—and you know too, Bro. Editor, that we pronounce the benediction; so did Bro. Holsinger, the only distinction I noticed in this was, that bro. H. did not ask his audience to rise, while we do, yet his words were,—as I noted them—"and now may the Lord bless and keep you, you are now dismissed." With the multitude we departed, and the past came up before us like a vivid panorama. When we entered the church about seventeen years ago.

When we lay upon our couch, the panorama kept unfolding, we saw the good minister line the hymn, two lines—then sing, two more lines—then sing. The "Strange" minister would come and go home, probably moderately compensated by the private contributions of a few members, and probably not, when the baskets passed would have been as strange and startling as the ghost of Banquo.

When those who desired to unite, could make their wants known through some one, and when a sinner stepping out of a congregation and walking up and taking the minister's hand, would have almost been construed as an impaired intellect.

When colleges and Foreign Missions were regarded as invocations, detrimental and ruinous, and as we then lay the panorama still unfolded. We waited for the next scene, and it was just verging into visibility, when old Morpheus clasped us in his arms, and bore us away to the land of slumber.

W. L. SPANOGLE.

A SURPRISE AT HOMER.

On the 28th of November, the pastor of the Brethren Church at this place was very effectually surprised by his church members and neighbors to the number of about one hundred, it being the fiftieth anniversary of his birth-day. Eleven years of that time having been spent in the service of this church.

Early in the evening they began to come in and kept on coming till the house was filled, each one bringing well filled baskets of good things, their hearts full of joy, their countenance beaming with smiles, and a warm handshaking with a good wish for the pastor. The evening was spent in social visiting and singing.

Supper was soon announced and the old preacher and his noble help mate were conducted to the head of the table and seated conspicuously.

After thanks were returned and plates were turned up, under the pastor's plate lay three shining coins valuable enough to make glad any preacher's heart. Of course he would put them into his pocket after which he ate his supper.

When all had eaten he was called up for a "speech," but the speech was not very "much". He tried to tell them that he appreciated their pres-

ence, thanked them for their generous donation and hoped that thus it might always be.

After all had gone away and the preacher had gone to bed, tired but sleepless, these thoughts passed through his mind. What shall I do to prove myself worthy of so much honor and confidence that these people seem to grant unto their pastor? How shall he ever reward them for it all? Only by being more faithful and devoted in his work in the church. And I know that the memory of this event will prove to be an antidote for many of the discouragements incident to a preacher's life.

H. S. JACOBS.

OAKDALE, CAL.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—While at our camp-meeting at Ripon, Cal., we met brother P. S. Garman. It seemed that he was acquainted with my father's folks, so I was requested to write home for him. So I did, and in return answer, learned my grandfather's given name was George, and the children's names were Jonis, Elvinia, then Benjamin Franklin, that is my father, then Mary Ann, William, Carolina, then Simari, then George Milton, Mandy and Passivill, Enoline and Daniel. Grandmother's maiden name was Miss Window-maker. Benjamin, my father, is sixty-three years old. He remembers he had three teachers, but just two of their names, one was Mr. Ring and one was Smoisie. No church of ours here in Oakdale.

MRS. SAM WEILER.

FROM LANARK, ILL.

Since my last report of a few weeks ago we have been having very good meetings. Sister Grossnickle preached four sermons in her usual powerful manner. At the last and Sunday evening service one made the good confession, and one more united with us on last Sunday morning. We are hoping and trusting and working earnestly and God is blessing our faith and works.

Brother S. J. Harrison has severed his connection with Rev. Dowie, not because he did not believe in Divine healing, but because of the disagreement of business principles. Brother Harrison earnestly desires to give his whole time and ability to the cause of the church. This is right and highly to be commended. May others who are not preaching with all their ability do likewise.

Z. T. LIVENGOD.

FROM PITTSBURGH CHURCH, OHIO.

This band of noble brethren and sisters numbering twenty-five are striving zealously and lawfully against Satan's domain. The new church is not quite complete yet in belfry and painting, but a good bell calls the Sabbath school together every Sunday and indicates the hours of worship regularly twice on each

second and fourth Sundays of the month.

The building committee has expected to turn over the keys to the trustees soon, as the latter have assumed all the indebtedness on the structure, amounting to near four hundred dollars.

These brethren are bravely earnest and are stemming the tide of opposition nobly, and with commendable prudence. They are all receiving valuable encouragement from their neighbors, who have found a convenient place of worship meeting to their choice.

On Thanksgiving morning a good number of these kind brethren and sisters, drove eight miles through chilling air, to our home, bringing with them well filled baskets for our mutual Thanksgiving dinner, and the best that kind hearts can devise and willing hands prepare, and say we had an enjoyable day with them is putting it in modest phrase. Not only this but a well filled wagon reminded us of kind hearts present in person, who were kept away by infirmity and the inclement weather. We were told that every member of the church was represented in this bountiful donation. With many thanks and grateful hearts we accept this substantial token of kindness to their past and family, not from a feeling of personal merit, but as an expression of brotherly love which is a climate of perfect Christianity. 2 Peter 1.

A. PEARSON.

NEWTON, KANSAS.

BRETHREN EVANGELIST:—The Brethren church at Mulvane, Sumner Co. Kansas, still lives. They have had no preaching since last April until Dec. 2nd, I preached two sermons and held one Bible reading for them also had the pleasure of baptizing one young man and receiving him into the fellowship of the church. He was converted under United Brethren preaching; but choose to obey the ordinances more fully than they hold them.

JACOB W. BEER.

FROM MILFORD, IND.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—It has been some time since our name appeared in our valuable church paper. We would say to the many readers of the same that on the 14th, inst., we began a series of meetings six miles south of Hartford City, in Blackford Co. Ind. After preaching five sermons we had to give away to our G. B. Brethren, so we moved our meetings two and one half miles from there to a school house where we held one week. The house was crowded every night, a wonderful interest was manifested. Five souls professed faith in Christ. Two came from the G. B's, the rest will be baptized in the near future. We closed the